

Edwards

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FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

55

Based on the series shown on **BBC** TV.

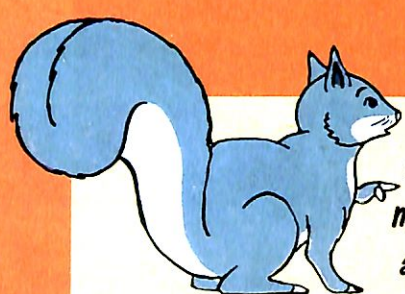


FREE
Alphabet
stamps

NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

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Squirrel says,

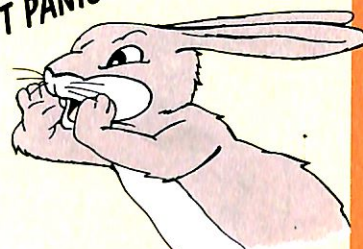
*Hello Friends,
here's a quick note from
me about how to use your
alphabet stickers!*

ALPHABET STICKERS

By issue 58 you will have received two complete sets of alphabet stickers, plus an extra A, E, P and S. Use these stickers to spell out your name, or that of a friend, on the front of a notebook, lunchbox or bedroom door.

*If you haven't got
all your copies of
Farthing Wood Friends*

DON'T PANIC!



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IN ISSUE 56

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD
Scarface is spying on the
Farthing Wood cubs.

ALL ABOUT...Feral cats

Their ancestors were pets,
but these cats have run
wild. They don't need man.

FASCINATING FACTS

When is a rock not a rock?
When it's a plant, disguised
as one!

DISCOVERING NATURE

Search for buried gold on
our treasure island. Or wear
a patch and walk the plank.

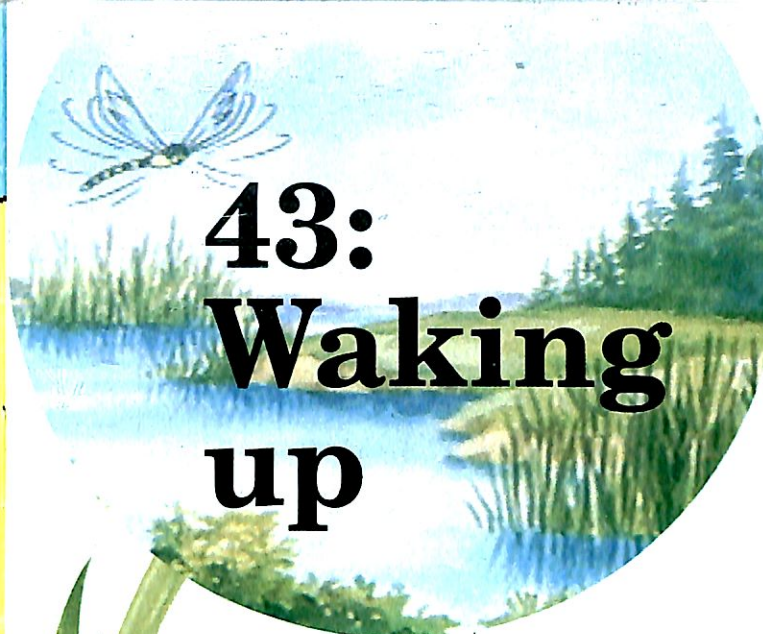
CREDITS

Photographs: Bruce Coleman Ltd (Gordon Langsbury) FF2(t), (Hans Reinhard) AA3(t), (Joseph Van Wormer) AA4(t); FLPA (A R Hamblin) AA4(b); Jacana (J P Champroux) FF1(c), (J P Saussez) FF1(t); P Llewelyn-Davies/Telemagination SW1; Nature Photographers (M Gore) FF1(b); NHPA (Stephen Dalton) AA2(t), AA3(b); Oxford Scientific Films (Harry Fox) FF2(br); Planet Earth (Margaret Welby) FF2(bl); Zefa FF2(c).
Illustrations: Tony Blundell PIO1-4; Andy Cooke DN1-3; Brin Edwards FF1-2; Dale E Evans CII; John Ridyard/Etchell and Ridyard SW1-3; Mike Rowe/Wildlife Art Agency AA1-2(b); Clive Spong/Linden Artists FC, AA1(t), alphabet stamps.

Key: AA = All About ...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature; FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World.

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**FREE
DANGLING
ADDER
IN ISSUE 56**

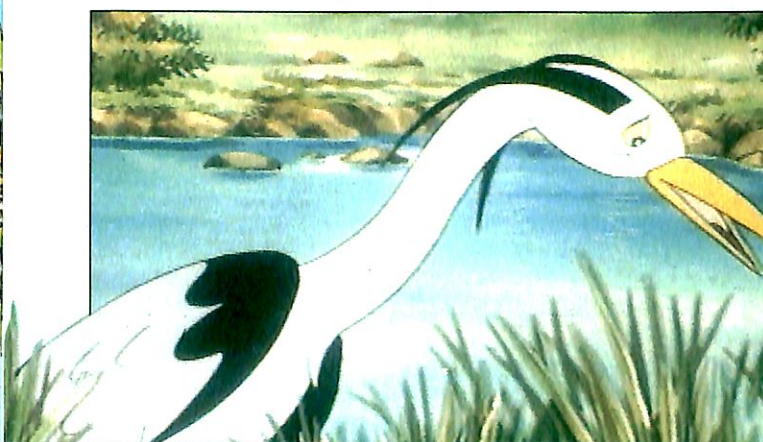


43: Waking up

Now that the Warden was back in his house, the Park was free of poachers. Spring had come and the world was waking up after a winter's sleep.



An Edible frog, sitting on a nearby rock, stared in fright on seeing Adder, before leaping into the water.



"Well, the Edible frogs have all disappeared. Have you seen Toad?" Whistler asked. "I can hardly sssee you," Adder replied.



At the pond, Adder slowly uncurled herself and yawned. It was time to wake up from her hibernation.



"Adder! You're awake!" said Whistler. "I'm not ssso sure about that," hissed Adder, closing her eyes again.



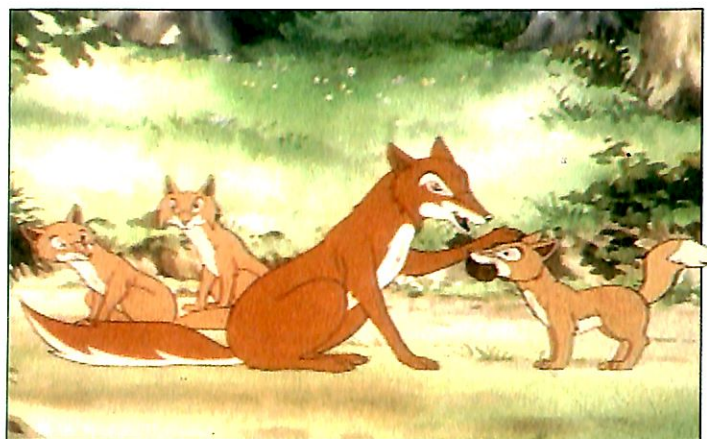
The cubs were playing outside Fox and Vixen's earth. Vixen was trying to teach them how to pounce but ...



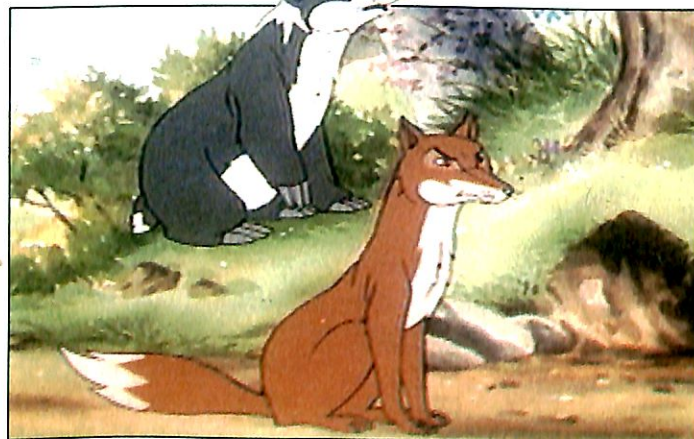
... Bold was only interested in juggling with a fir cone ...



... and Dreamer was off in a world of her own, following a butterfly.



"Now watch how I do it," called Vixen. The other two cubs, Friendly and Charmer, watched. Then Friendly copied his mother. "Well done, Friendly," said Vixen. "Show off," said Bold, behind her back.



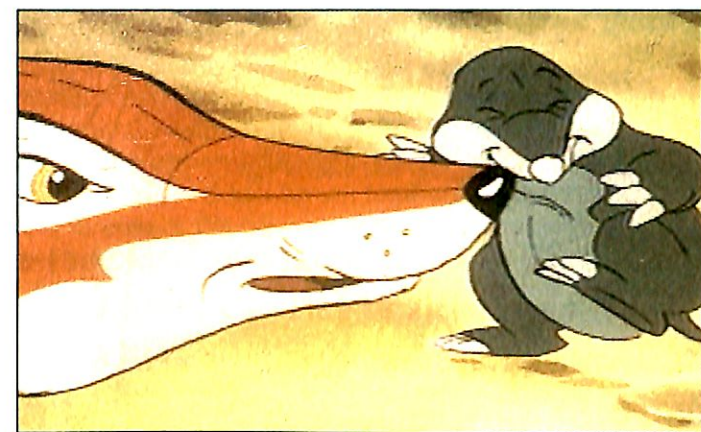
"I say, well done," said Badger, who was watching the cubs. "But who's this?" he added, looking up.



A female mole and her two babies came rolling down the hill. Bold got ready to pounce but Badger stopped him. "No Bold, she has young," he said.



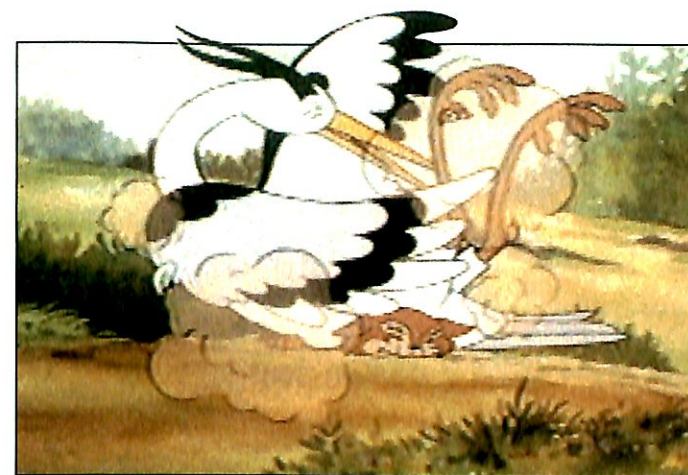
"Hello, I'm Mateless, I've heard so much about you from Mole," said the female mole. "He died, you know, leaving me these." She pointed at the two babies.



Vixen nuzzled the nearest baby. "He's so soft, just like moss," she said. "Mossy, that's what I'll call him," said Mateless.



"Badger, come and meet Mole's mate," called Vixen. "Now where's that rascal got to?" said Badger. "You tell him from me that I want to see him." "But, but ..." stammered Mateless.



"He can't take it in, poor old codger," said Fox. Just then, Whistler crash-landed on top of one of the cubs. "That'll teach you to pay attention," said Fox, laughing at Dreamer.



"Anyone seen Toad?" asked Whistler. "He's not in his hole, so he must be up and about again."



Toad was feeling very confused. "Where am I? ... got to get home ... got to get back to the pond where I was born."



"Your pond doesn't exist any more," hissed Adder from the edge of the pond, but Toad didn't hear her. "Got to get back," he muttered, hopping off out of sight.

Next week: Rivalry.

SWALLOWS



“Hi! I’m Mrs Swallow. Like Cuckoo, I only get a chance to see the animals of Farthing Wood in the summer. That’s because we Swallows eat insects and in the winter, when the weather turns cold, there are too few insects in Britain and Ireland to keep us alive. So, we fly south to the warmth of southern Africa, where the grasslands are teeming and buzzing with insects.

You’ve probably seen some of my family twisting and turning in the sky on a sunny, summer’s day or skimming close to the ground. Nearly one million pairs visit the British Isles each year.

We eat while we’re flying, skimming across fields or above water to catch midges, gnats and mosquitoes. When we’re thirsty, we swoop right down to sip water from puddles, streams or pools. Our upperparts are a glossy, bluish black and we have reddish brown feathers on the throat and forehead. We have a white bar at the edge of the tail and creamy brown underparts.



Be a Nature Detective

Including us Swallows, there are four fast-flying birds, with forked tails and long wings, that visit Britain in the summer. Two of them are related to me, the other isn’t. How can you tell which is which when we’re darting about? Here are some clues:

- We Swallows are about 19cm long. We have long tail streamers and we often fly very close to the ground.
- House martins are quite a bit smaller than us and

have a shorter tail with a broad white patch above it.

■ Sand martins are about the same size as House martins. Their upper parts are brown, the breast feathers white and they have a brown throat band.

■ On fine days, Swifts, who are a little smaller than us, glide high up in the sky, holding out their long, dark brown wings stiffly. They hardly ever perch or land on the ground.



All About...

Summer and autumn

“When we arrive in Britain, in April and May, most of us have flown over 8000km in about six weeks. We take a short rest on the North African coast, after crossing the Sahara desert, and then, if the weather allows us, cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

The males usually arrive first and head for the area where they spent the previous summer. Sometimes they even choose the same nest site as before.”

By the time the females join them, the males have found themselves perches, such as barn roofs or tree branches, where they trill out their mating songs.

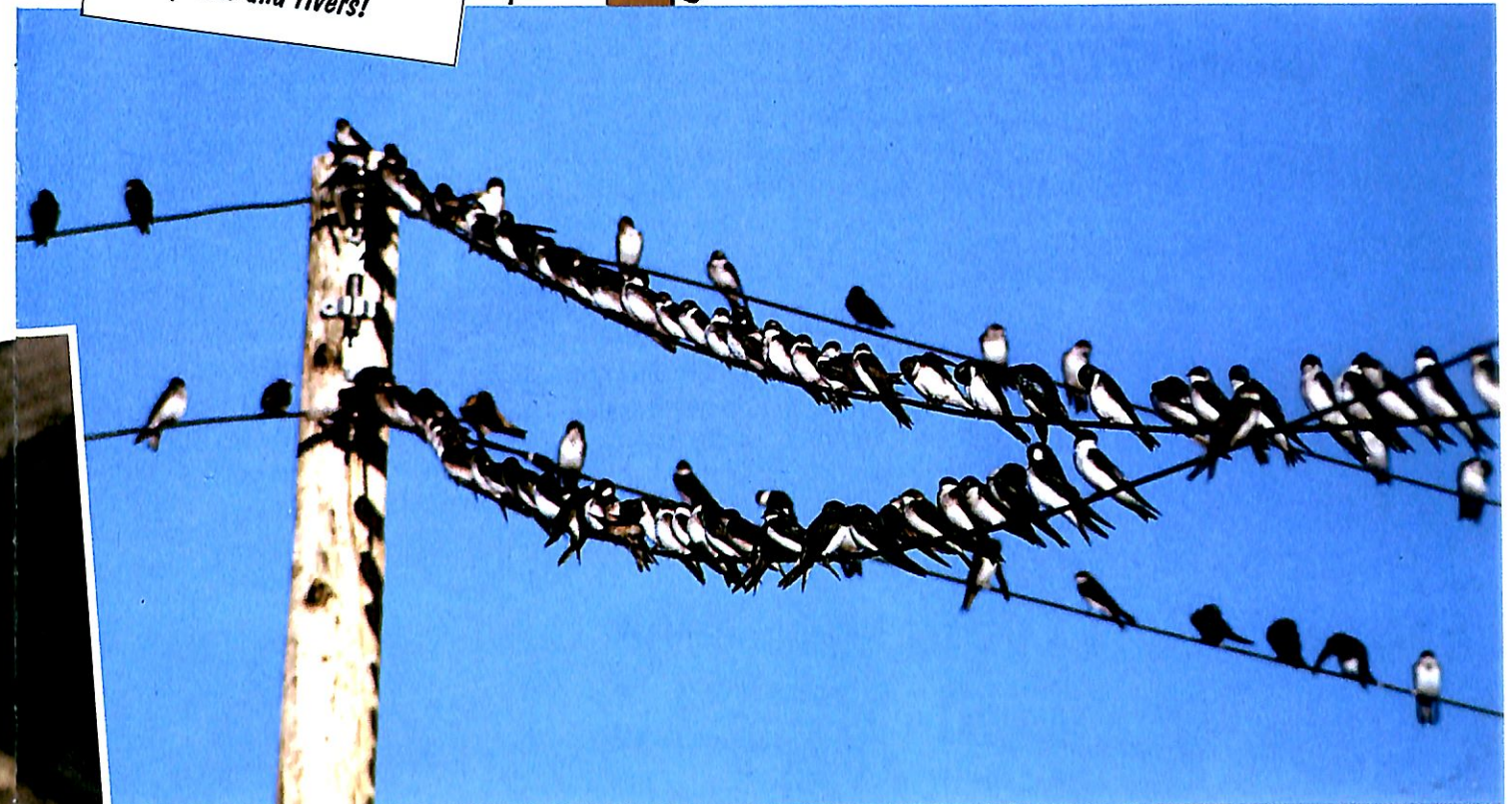


Weasel's Easel

Before naturalists discovered that Swallows migrate to Africa for winter, people used to think that they buried themselves in the mud at the bottom of ponds and rivers!



As early as August, huge flocks gather together on telegraph wires, twittering and warbling before the long trek south. The young birds have shorter tail streamers and paler throat and forehead feathers. Some birds leave then, but others wait until October. The journey back takes longer than the northward trip. At night we roost in places like marshy reedbeds.



As soon as we've found ourselves partners we start to build the nest at a spot chosen by the male. Long ago, Swallows only used to build their nests on cave walls, cliffs or in tree holes but now we often nest inside human buildings such as barns or sheds. The end of a beam, where it meets another beam or the wall, makes an excellent place.

I lay a clutch of four or five eggs and incubate them for about two weeks. Once the chicks have hatched, my mate helps me to feed them with beakfuls of insects. They are ready to fly when they're about three weeks old. When they leave, they stay close by and we still give them food for a few more days. Then we parents start all over again and rear a second, and sometimes a third brood.

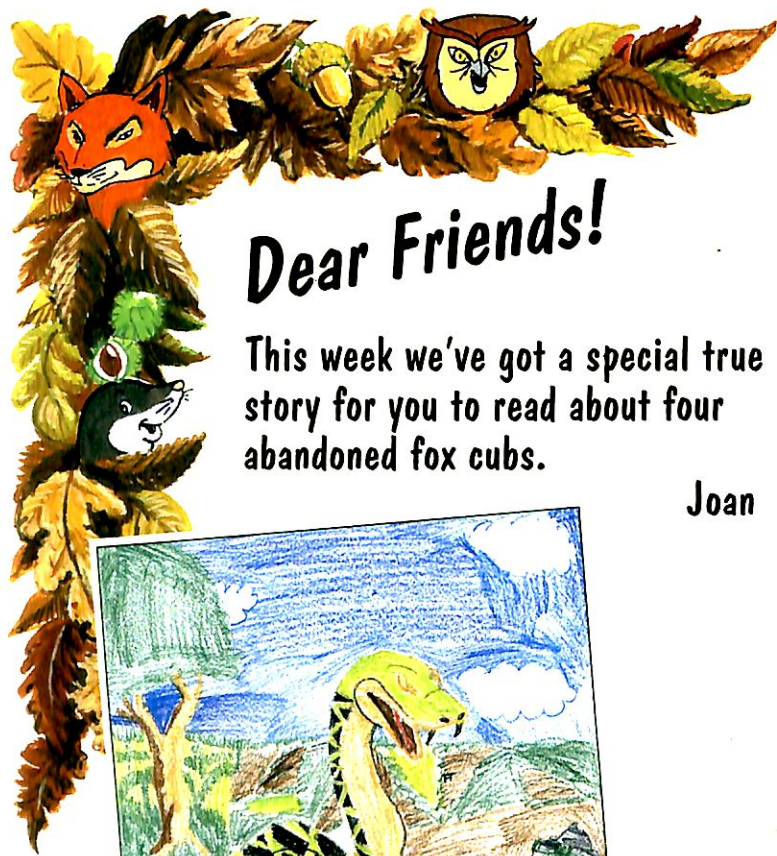
With each pair rearing at least 10 young every season, it's not surprising there are a huge number of us by the end of the summer.

IT'S Amazing!

EXPERTS WITH MUD

How do Swallows carry mud up to the top of a barn and make it stick to make a nest? They roll up the mud into little balls with their beaks and carry them to the site. Then they stick them together with straw.

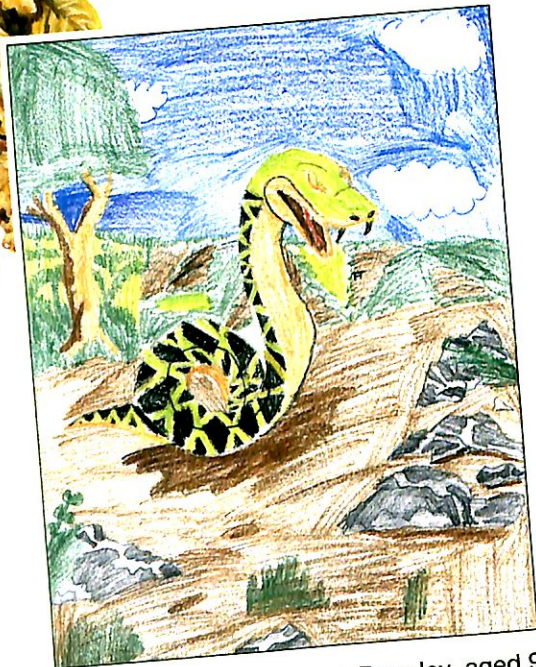




Dear Friends!

This week we've got a special true story for you to read about four abandoned fox cubs.

Joan



James Bromley, aged 9

How do ghosts lie perfectly flat when they sleep?

They use a spirit-level!

Paul O'Donovan



Jonathan Champion, aged 10

AN EXTRACT FROM A TRUE STORY WRITTEN BY KELLY BROOMFIELD, AGED 12

It was on the day of the 31st March when my dad knocked on the window of my family home. Mum went to the window and my dad said, "Open the door". She opened the door and found that my dad had a handful of fur. It was squeaking. We thought they were kittens. But they weren't - they were four fox cubs who had been abandoned by their mother. My mum got a towel, wrapped them up and put them by the fire. We heated some milk up and fed them we couldn't handle four of them, so we asked our friend if she would look after two of them. She said it was her dream come true ... The two we kept were called Amber, because of her fur, and Gizmo, because he looked like the one of the film, Gremlins. The two Sue kept were called Angel and Jeffry ... It was getting too difficult to handle the foxes so we found a place where the new owner would look after them and then let them out into the wild. We had to let Amber and Gizmo get on with their lives. A few days later we missed them so much we got a puppy named Polly.

What do rabbits call mobile homes?

Wheel burrows!

Emma Grant, aged 10



Daniel Johnson, aged 6



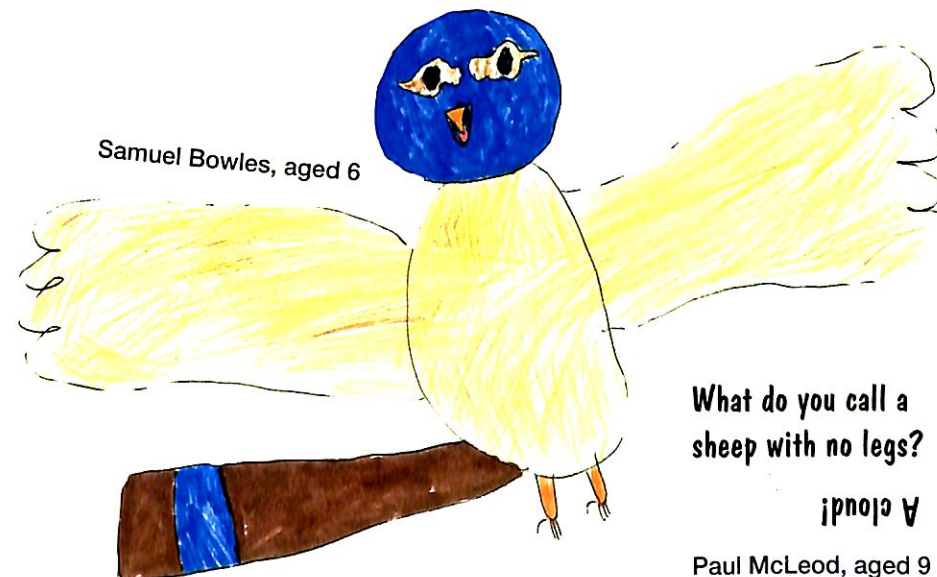
Jade Kathwadia, aged 8

A LIMERICK FROM JAMIE DOUGLAS, AGED 9

There once was a man from York
Who was always eating pork,
One day he got fat
He sat on a cat
That stupid old man from York!



Alice Turner



Samuel Bowles, aged 6

What do you call a sheep with no legs?

A cloud!

Paul McLeod, aged 9



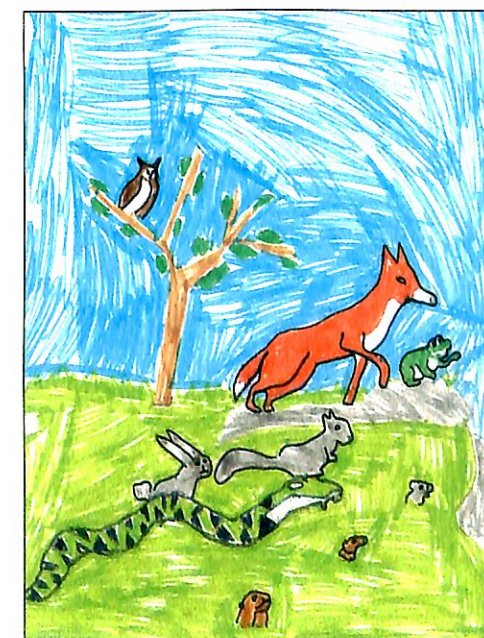
Jennifer Spencer

RUN, FOX, RUN
Run so swiftly
Run so free
Run so ever quietly
Run for all eternity

RUN, FOX, RUN ...

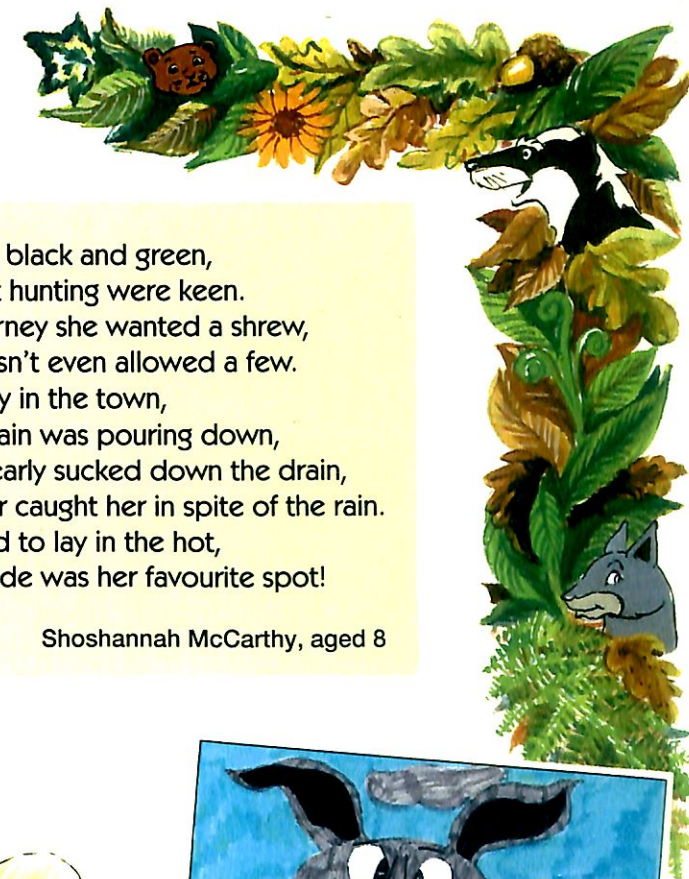
You run so fast
You run so quick
You lash your tail
With just one flick
You catch with such
a cunning trick

RUN, FOX, RUN.
Hazel Sharkey, aged 10



Richard Tarrant, aged 7

Don't forget to put your name, age and address on the back of anything you send in.



Adder was black and green,
Her skills at hunting were keen.
On the journey she wanted a shrew,
But she wasn't even allowed a few.
But one day in the town,
When the rain was pouring down,
She was nearly sucked down the drain,
But Whistler caught her in spite of the rain.
Adder liked to lay in the hot,
But the shade was her favourite spot!

Shoshannah McCarthy, aged 8



A MOOR IN SPRING

“The high moorland seems a pleasant place when spring arrives. But life up here can be tough when the wind blows hard and the rain pours. There’s a fair amount of wildlife here though, and that’s why I’m visiting. I’m on the look-out for a dozy vole or a dead hare. The rocky crags are home to sure-footed animals and nesting birds. While on the open moor, bushy shrubs and colourful plants attract insects and birds.”



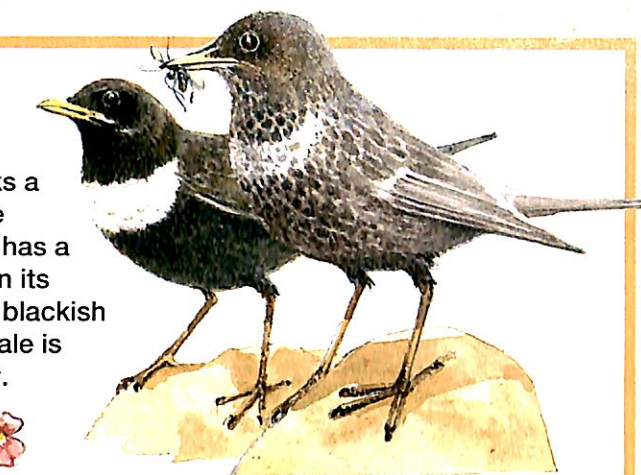
Scarface’s Challenge: the moor is buzzing with Bumble bees. How many can you find going about their business among the bilberries and other moorland plants?





Mitrula paludosa is a kind of fungus. It grows on rotting twigs and leaves in damp ditches or on certain kinds of moss. Its thin white stems end in a yellow or orange tip. Can you see some at the bottom of the main picture?

The **Ring ouzel** looks a bit like its relative the Blackbird. The ouzel has a half-moon of white on its throat. The male has blackish feathers and the female is lighter brownish grey.



► **Tormentil** flowers add a dash of yellow to the moor in spring. This plant is sometimes called blood root, because people used to colour their clothes with a red dye made from its roots.



◄ The **Common butterwort** is an insect-eater by trade. When an insect lands on its sticky star-shaped leaves, it gets stuck. As it struggles, the leaves curl round it. Then the plant starts to devour it.



Golden plovers are camouflaged when they crouch still. Their nests are also difficult to find in the dense tangle of moorland grass.



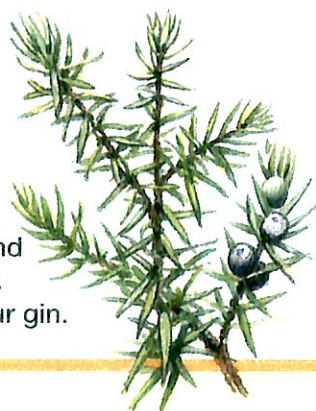
Fox moth caterpillars get fat on heather and other shrubs before pupating in spring. Later they turn into brown moths. Males fly day and night but the females fly only at night.



Feral goats roam free on moors, clifftops and rocky hillsides in a few parts of Britain. They are shaggy shrub-eaters descended from domestic animals that went wild more than 1000 years ago.



Common juniper is a shrub of the moorlands of northern England and Scotland and of southern chalk downs. The berries are used to flavour gin.



Ravens are the biggest members of the crow family – in fact they're the largest perching birds in the world. They are black with a very big beak and shaggy throat feathers.

I hope you managed to stumble upon all five bumbles. They may be big and hairy as far as bees go, but they're not that easy to spot.

BUSY BEES



Honey bees live in big groups called colonies. Every bee has a special job to do. Some pollinate flowers and fruit trees so that we have beautiful summer meadows and delicious apples and cherries. Bees also make honey, yum!

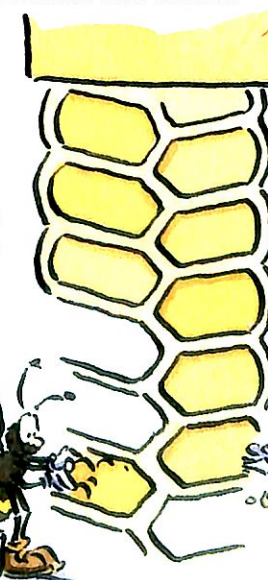
FLOWER TO TABLE

1 Beekeepers give their bees a hive to live in instead of a nest. The hives contain special racks for collecting honey. These are called combs.



2 Worker bees collect nectar, a sweet sugary liquid, and pollen from flowers. They take this food back to the hive, making up to 10 trips a day. They carry the pollen in baskets on their legs, and the nectar in a special pocket just behind their mouth.

3 Back at the hive, the bees turn the nectar into honey by chewing it and fanning it with their wings. (Some of it is mixed with pollen and used to feed the young bee larvae.) The bees put the honey into sections in the comb called cells. Each cell is like a little bee-larder, and the bees seal them with wax that they make themselves.

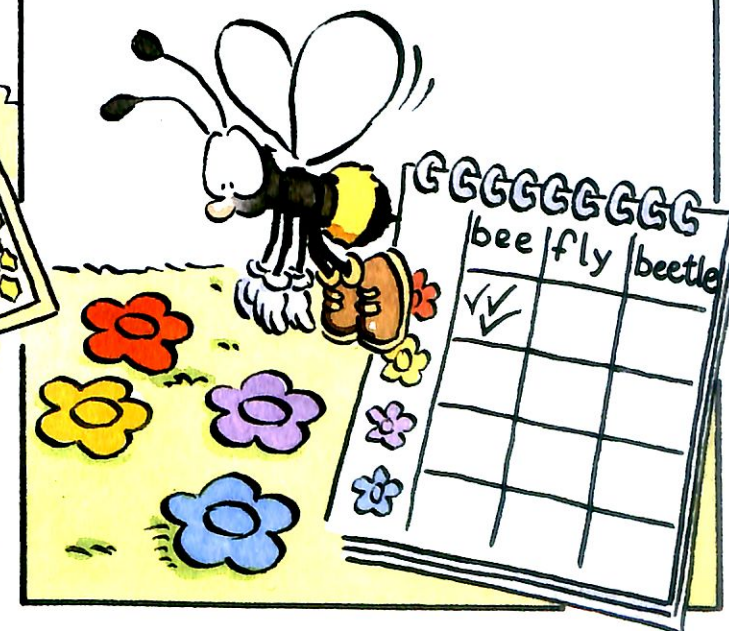


PICK A COLOUR

If you watch the bees in your garden, you'll see that they seem to visit some flowers more than others. It might be that certain colours tell them a flower has lots of nectar. You can do a simple experiment to work out what colours bees like best.

Make six flower-shaped cards about 25cm across and paint five of them in different colours – leave one white. Pick a warm sunny day and put the flowers down in the garden.

Watch the flowers for an hour or so and keep a note of how many times a bee touches down on each colour. Other insects will probably land on the cards, too. Keep a chart and tick every time an insect lands on a flower. If one colour is not popular, put a smear of honey on it and see what difference that makes.



4 In the autumn, beekeepers lift out the full combs, but leave enough honey behind for the bees to eat in the winter. The combs go in a centrifuge machine, which spins them round and throws out the honey without breaking the combs.

The honey is filtered to remove any wax and then put into jars for you to spread on your toast.



HONEY FLAPJACKS

These are delicious, but very sweet, so don't eat too many!

You will need: 50g margarine, 175g plain chocolate, two tablespoons clear honey, 250g digestive biscuits, tube of Smarties, 18cm square cake tin, greaseproof paper.

1 Grease and line a square cake tin with greaseproof paper.

2 Put the biscuits in a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin.

4 Spoon the mixture into a cake tin and press it flat. Leave it to cool.

BUZZING BEES

Put a piece of paper for each player in a hat. All the pieces are folded up and just one of them has the word 'Buzz' written on it.

Everyone picks out a piece of paper and whoever gets the one marked 'Buzz' is the bee.

All the players except for the bee put on a blindfold. The bee runs around, buzzing loudly, while the others try and catch him. Whoever succeeds has the next go at being the bee.

This game is a bit noisy, so it's best to play it outside if you can. Most of the players are blindfolded, so ask an adult where there's a safe place to play.

3 Melt the chocolate, margarine and honey together in a saucepan over a *gentle* heat, stirring them from time to time. When they're well mixed together, take the saucepan off the heat and stir the biscuit crumbs into the honey mixture.

Squirrel says
Get an adult to help you while you use the cooker.

5 When cool, cut into squares with a sharp knife, and decorate each flapjack with a Smartie. Carefully lift them out of the tin and peel away the greaseproof paper. If the flapjacks are still rather sticky, put them in the fridge to firm up a bit more.

BOPPING BEES

Bees dance to tell each other where there are flowers to be found. The 'waggle' dance shows in what direction the flowers lie, whilst the 'round' dance means that the flowers are nearby. The more flowers there are, the faster the dance.

BEE BABY FOOD

Bees make a special food called royal jelly, which they feed to the growing larvae.

BEE-IN-A-BOX

You will need: an old box with a lid (about 8cm square), ping-pong ball, black pipe cleaner, Plasticine, two strips of stiff paper about 55 x 3.5cm wide, glue.

1 Colour the ping-pong ball yellow and paint two black eyes and a mouth on it. Cut the pipe cleaner in half. Make two holes in the ping-pong ball with a darning needle and push the pipe cleaners through for antennae. Trim the antennae so that they'll fit in the box. Put a little blob of yellow Plasticine on the end of each one.

2 Colour one strip of paper yellow and the other black. (Colour both sides.) Put them at right-angles to each other and tape the ends together. Fold the strips over each other to make a springy body. Tape the strips together at the end.

3 Put a blob of glue on the bottom of the spring and stick it inside the box. Put something heavy on top, like a small jar, to keep it pressed down until the glue has set. Put a blob of glue on the bee's head and press that firmly to the body until it's fixed.

4 Keep the lid shut on your bee-in-the-box until you want to surprise your friends with it - that way, the body will stay springy for longer.

ON THE POND

It was spring and the pond in White Deer Park was full of little fish. Speedy and Whistler were helping themselves to an occasional snack. The Edible frogs and Toad were basking in the sun.

VANISHING FROGS
Can you see the outlines of six Edible frogs hiding from Adder?

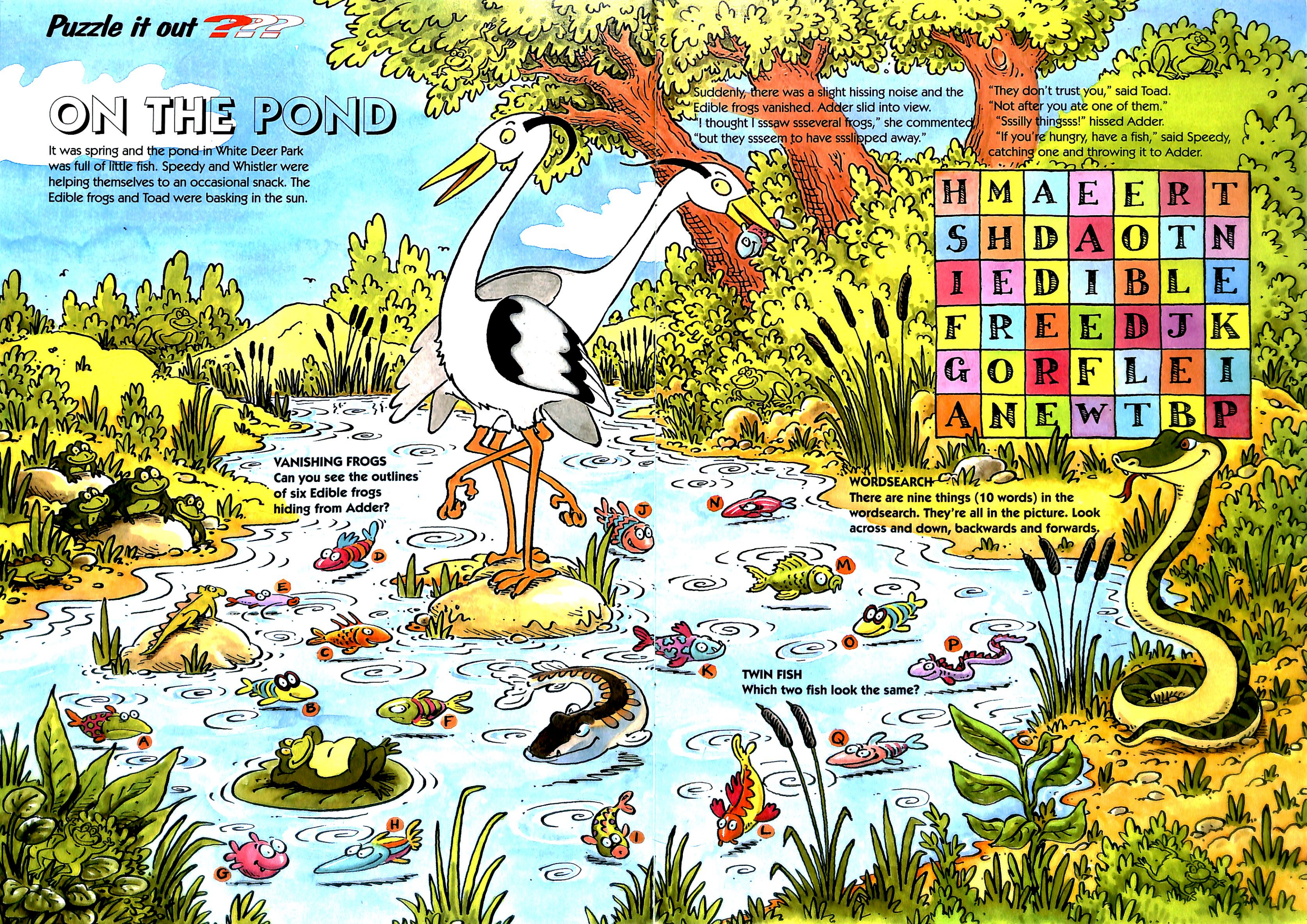
Suddenly, there was a slight hissing noise and the Edible frogs vanished. Adder slid into view. "I thought I ssaw ssseveral frogs," she commented "but they ssseem to have sslipped away."

"They don't trust you," said Toad. "Not after you ate one of them." "Sssilly thingsss!" hissed Adder. "If you're hungry, have a fish," said Speedy, catching one and throwing it to Adder.

H	M	A	E	E	R	T
S	H	D	A	O	T	N
I	E	D	I	B	L	E
F	R	E	E	D	J	K
G	O	R	F	L	E	I
A	N	E	W	T	B	P

WORDSEARCH
There are nine things (10 words) in the wordsearch. They're all in the picture. Look across and down, backwards and forwards.

TWIN FISH
Which two fish look the same?



Puzzle it out ???

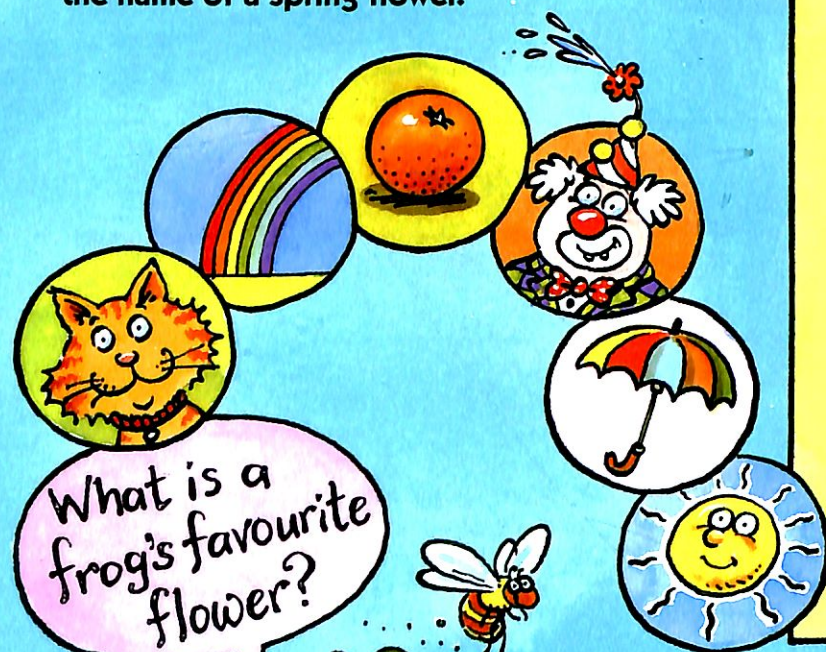
Adder drew herself up, looking very offended. "I don't need your help to find food," she said. "And it's not fish I eat, it's frogsss!" With that, she slid off in a huff.

"Huh!" said Speedy. "Try and help and that's all the thanks I get. Come on Whistler!" and the two herons flew off.

In a trice, the Edible frogs were back by the pond. "Isn't it nice to have the pond to ourselves again," they said to one another as they settled down to snooze.

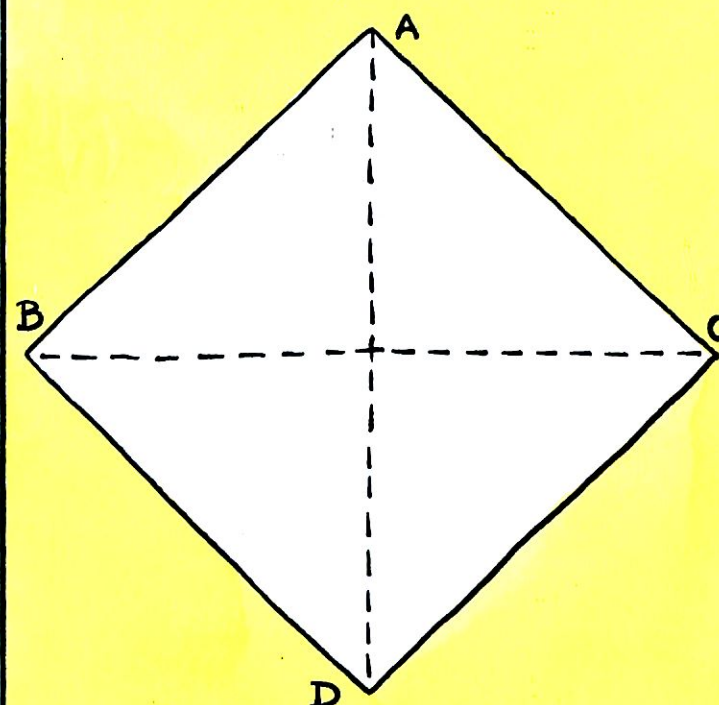
FIND THE ANSWER

Do you know the answer to this joke? If not, write down the letter of each object to spell the name of a spring flower.

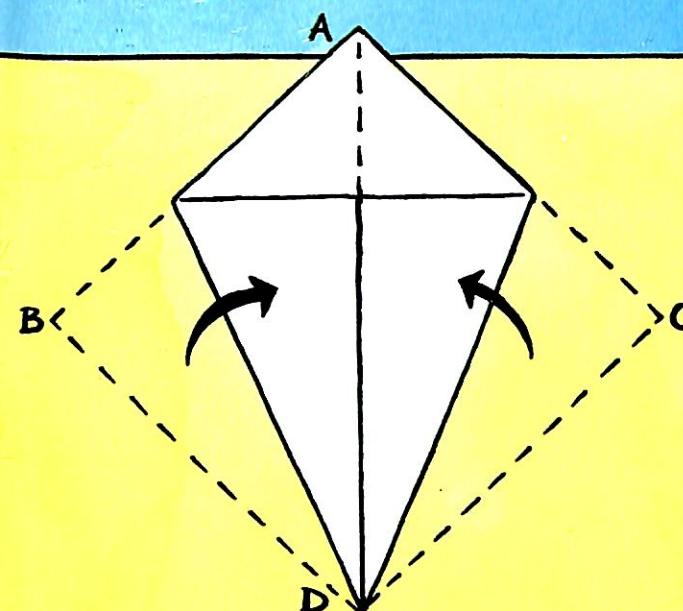


A SWIMMING SWAN

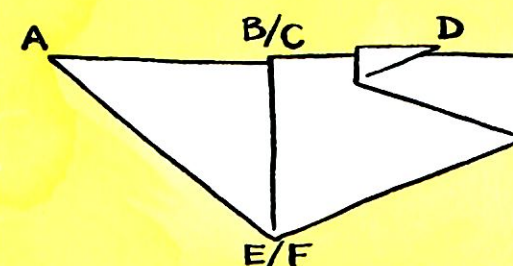
You will need a square sheet of stiff paper.



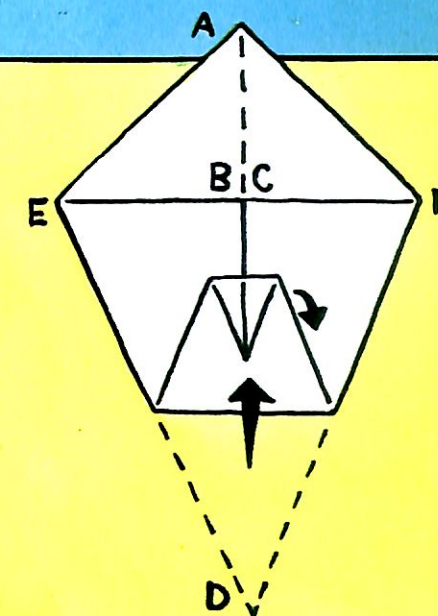
1 Fold the sheet along one diagonal and open up. Then fold along the other diagonal and open up.



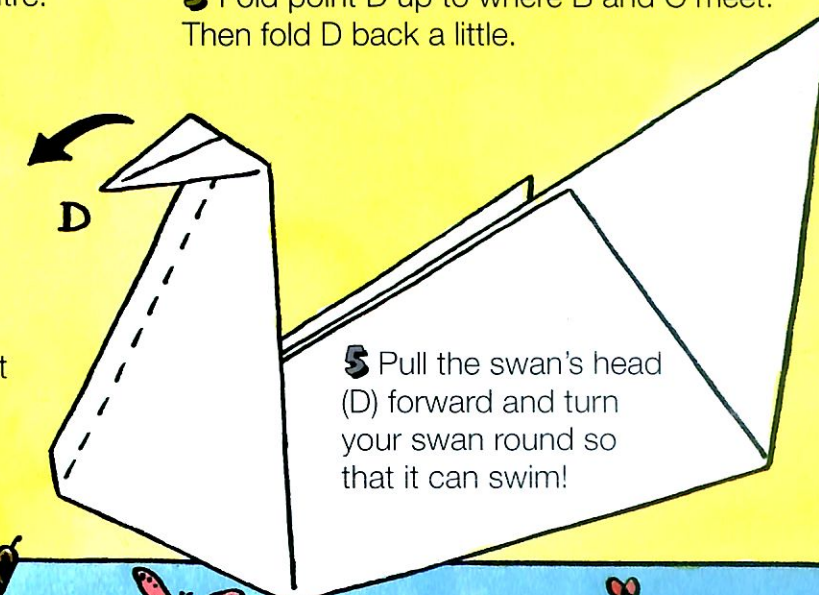
2 Fold points B and C into the centre.



4 Fold so that points E and F meet and point D is on the outside.



3 Fold point D up to where B and C meet. Then fold D back a little.



5 Pull the swan's head (D) forward and turn your swan round so that it can swim!

REFLECTIONS

The artist has changed eight details in the reflections in the river. Can you spot them?

ANSWERS

TWIN FISH B and O are the same.

WORDSEARCH Across: tree, Toad, Edible frog, reed, Newt.

Up: fish, Pike. Down: heron, Adder.

FIND THE ANSWER A crocus!

REFLECTIONS Look at: frog holding a flower, spots on the ladybird, Newt's crest, butterfly, flower under the dragonfly, frog's tongue, large butterfly, last frog's arm.

Colour it in 

PLAY TIME



